

Table 38. Perception of job market at the time of doctoral degree completion, and benefit of doctoral degree by recent doctoral recipients by field of doctorate: 1997

April 2002

Perception and benefit	Field of doctorate							
	All fields	Computer and mathematical sciences	Biological and agricultural sciences	Health sciences	Physical and related sciences	Social sciences	Psychology	Engineering
Total recent doctoral recipients (number).....	119,300	8,600	28,200	5,700	20,500	14,700	16,800	24,700
Job market for postdocs:	Percent							
Excellent.....	9	S	17	S	6	S	7	6
Good.....	26	15	34	41	25	11	30	23
Fair.....	33	22	31	24	36	33	39	33
Very poor.....	25	42	15	S	31	40	17	25
Don't know or not applicable.....	8	S	S	S	S	12	8	13
Job market for positions other than postdocs:								
Excellent.....	5	13	S	S	S	S	S	8
Good.....	20	19	17	41	12	17	24	25
Fair.....	36	31	35	29	33	39	42	38
Very poor.....	34	33	40	S	50	37	21	26
Don't know or not applicable.....	5	S	5	S	S	S	8	S
Doctoral degree helped:								
Begin first career.....	61	57	67	26	73	57	56	58
Further a career already started.....	27	28	25	63	19	24	24	29
Change careers.....	10	S	6	S	S	17	18	9
In ways not related to career.....	3	S	S	S	S	S	S	4

KEY: S = Suppressed due to too few cases (fewer than 1,000 weighted cases).

NOTES: 'Recent doctoral recipients' are those who reported having received their doctorate between June of 1990 and 1996. Job market perception is based on a question that asked how they thought the job market was at the time of doctoral degree completion. Benefit of doctoral degree is based on a question that asked how they thought a doctoral degree would help their career. Details may not add to total because of rounding. Numbers are rounded to nearest hundred. Percents are rounded to the whole number. Survey of Doctorate Recipients includes persons who had earned research doctorate from U.S. institutions and resided in U.S. as of April 1997.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/Division of Science Resources Statistics, 1997 Survey of Doctorate Recipients